

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for obtaining information from a relational database, comprising the steps of:

formulating a text query to retrieve data from the relational database,

where a first portion of the text query specifies the data to be retrieved

and a second portion of the text query specifies a format for graphing the data;

transmitting the text query to the relational database;

causing data to be returned from the relational database in accordance with the text query; and

presenting the data in accordance with said format.

2. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the first portion of the text query and the second portion of the text query are formulated in a structured query language (SQL).

3. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the data is returned as a binary image and presented as a graph.

4. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein an image representation of data in ASCII format is returned from the relational database and presented as a graph.

5. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein said step of causing the data to be returned further comprises interpreting the text query in accordance with a structured query language (SQL) having keywords and syntax for specifying said format.

6. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 5, wherein the graphical image is one of a line graph, a horizontal bar chart, a vertical bar chart, a pie chart, a scatter plot, a contour plot, and a wafer map, in accordance with a keyword in the second portion of the text query.

7. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein said step of causing the data to be returned further comprises:

interpreting the first portion of the text query to cause the data to be retrieved;

creating a dataset for the data;

incorporating the data into the dataset; and

constructing a graphical image using the data, in accordance with said format.

8. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 7, wherein said interpreting step further comprises parsing the text query so that the first portion of the text query and the second portion of the text query are interpreted separately.

9. (Currently amended) A method for querying a relational database, comprising the steps of:

specifying the data to be returned from the relational database in a first portion of a text query; and

specifying a format for graphing the data in a second portion of the text query,
the data thereby being returned as a graphical image in accordance with said format.

10. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 9, wherein the first portion of the text query and the second portion of the text query are in a structured query language (SQL).

11. (Original) A method according to claim 9, wherein the graphical image is a binary image.

12. (Original) A method according to claim 9, wherein the graphical image is a representation of the data in ASCII format.

13. (Original) A method according to claim 10, wherein the SQL includes keywords and syntax for specifying said format.

14. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 13, wherein the graphical image is one of a line graph, a horizontal bar chart, a vertical bar chart, a pie chart, a scatter plot, a contour plot, and a wafer map, in accordance with a keyword in the second portion of the text query.

15. (Currently amended) A system for retrieving and presenting data from a relational database, comprising:

the relational database;

an input device for entering a database text query;

a device for interpreting the text query, where said device is effective to format the data for presentation in graphical form; and

an output device for presenting the data as a graphical image.

16. (Currently amended) A system according to claim 15, wherein the text query is formulated in a structured query language (SQL).

17. (Currently amended) A system according to claim 15, wherein the text query includes a first portion specifying the data to be retrieved and a second portion specifying said graphical form, and said device for interpreting the text query has an interpreter for interpreting both the first portion and the second portion of the text query.

18. (Currently amended) A system according to claim 15, wherein the text query includes a first portion specifying the data to be retrieved and a second portion specifying said graphical form, and said device for interpreting the text query has a first interpreter for interpreting the first portion of the text query and a second interpreter for interpreting the second portion of the text query.

19. (Currently amended) A system according to claim 18, wherein the first interpreter is effective to cause return of the data from the relational database in accordance with the first portion of the text query, and the second interpreter is effective to

parse the text query into the first portion and the second portion;

create a dataset for the data;

incorporate the data into the dataset; and

construct the graphical image using the data, in accordance with the second portion of the text query.

20. (Original) A system according to claim 15, wherein the graphical image is a binary image.

21. (Original) A system according to claim 15, wherein the graphical image is a representation of the data in ASCII format.

22. (Original) A system according to claim 16, wherein the SQL includes keywords and syntax for specifying said graphical form.

23. (Currently amended) A system according to claim 15, wherein the graphical image is one of a line graph, a horizontal bar chart, a vertical bar chart, a pie chart, a scatter plot, a contour plot, and a wafer map, in accordance with a keyword in the second portion of the text query.

24. (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium having stored therein instructions for performing a method, the method comprising the steps of:

querying a relational database to retrieve data therefrom in accordance with a text query from a user,

where a first portion of the text query specifies the data to be retrieved

and a second portion of the text query specifies a format for graphing the data;

transmitting the text query to the relational database;
causing the data to be returned from the relational database in accordance with the query;
and
presenting the data in accordance with said format.

25. (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium according to claim 24, wherein in said method the first portion of the text query and the second portion of the text query are formulated in a structured query language (SQL).

26. (Original) A computer-readable storage medium according to claim 24, wherein in said method the data is returned as a binary image and presented as a graph.

27. (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium according to claim 24, wherein in said method an image representation of data in ASCII format is returned from the relational database and presented as a graph.

28. (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium according to claim 24, wherein in said method said step of causing the data to be returned further comprises interpreting the text query in accordance with a structured query language (SQL) having keywords and syntax for specifying said format.

29. (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium according to claim 28, wherein in said method the graphical image is one of a line graph, a horizontal bar chart, a vertical bar chart,

a pie chart, a scatter plot, a contour plot, and a wafer map, in accordance with a keyword in the second portion of the text query.

30. (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium according to claim 24, wherein in said method said step of causing the data to be returned further comprises:

interpreting the first portion of the text query to cause the data to be retrieved;

creating a dataset for the data;

incorporating the data into the dataset; and

constructing a graphical image using the data, in accordance with said format.

31. (Currently amended) A computer program product for performing a method, the method comprising the steps of:

querying a relational database to retrieve data therefrom in accordance with a text query from a user,

where a first portion of the text query specifies the data to be retrieved

and a second portion of the text query specifies a format for graphing the data;

transmitting the text query to the relational database;

causing the data to be returned from the relational database in accordance with the text query; and

presenting the data in accordance with said format.

32. (Currently amended) A computer program product according to claim 31, wherein in said method the first portion of the text query and the second portion of the text query are formulated in a structured query language (SQL).

33. (Original) A computer program product according to claim 31, wherein in said method the data is returned as a binary image and presented as a graph.

34. (Currently amended) A computer program product according to claim 31, wherein in said method an image representation of data in ASCII format is returned from the relational database and presented as a graph.

35. (Currently amended) A computer program product according to claim 31, wherein in said method said step of causing the data to be returned further comprises interpreting the text query in accordance with a structured query language (SQL) having keywords and syntax for specifying said format.

36. (Currently amended) A computer program product according to claim 35, wherein in said method the graphical image is one of a line graph, a horizontal bar chart, a vertical bar chart, a pie chart, a scatter plot, a contour plot, and a wafer map, in accordance with a keyword in the second portion of the text query.

37. (Currently amended) A computer program product according to claim 31, wherein in said method said step of causing the data to be returned further comprises:

interpreting the first portion of the text query to cause the data to be retrieved;
creating a dataset for the data;
incorporating the data into the dataset; and
constructing a graphical image using the data, in accordance with said format.

38. (Currently amended) In a structured query language (SQL) for querying a relational database to cause specified data to be returned therefrom, the improvement comprising:

keywords for specifying a format for graphing the returned data; and
syntax for recognizing said keywords, thereby causing the data to be presented as a graph according to said format.

39. (Currently amended) In a computer program product for interpreting a structured query language (SQL), the SQL used to formulate a text query to a relational database to cause data to be returned therefrom, the improvement comprising:

first computer program code for recognizing keywords for specifying a format for graphing the data; and
second computer program code for causing the data to be presented as a graph according to said format.

40. (Currently amended) In a computer program product according to claim 39, the improvement further comprising first computer program code including code for recognizing a delimiter keyword separating SQL statements in a first portion of the text query specifying the data from

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SQL statements in a second portion of the text query specifying said format.